

Ms. A. 9. 2. 23, 52

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My dear Mr. [illegible]
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours obedient servant,
[illegible]

New Bedford 10th month 17th 1847,

Dear Caroline,

Little Josey, the young Astyanax for future fame, often says, where's Larry Westons, and as often as his little lips lips that good name, Echo answers where. It is now about a month since I acknowledged the receipt of your and Debora's kind present, since which I have heard naught of you whereabouts. There is hardly an hour in the day, but what I think of you - you are perfectly excusable in not writing me, for I well know that you must be engaged in some good and righteous cause, and that you need the rest of a leisure and rural life, to balance the many cares and anxieties you have had to undergo, as well as to make preparations for your own Anti Slavery Fair at home, and the more interesting and attractive one of Christmas and New Years. Would that I could see you oftener - you cannot tell how much I miss your good company. Those little tête têtes, and just droppings in to look upon you will ever be held in remembrance dear. I wish Weymouth and New Bedford were nearer notwithstanding they are only a respectable distance from each other. yet Distance is one of the most dreadful conditions of our imperfect Earthly State. In the Spirit Land no

Carrier shall part Hundred Spirits." I received
a very affectionate and interesting letter from
Deborah in New York, about ten days since, which
I duly but most unsatisfactorily must have answer-
ed, as I was very poorly at the time and scarcely
able to be about. I have been much better
the past week - my sickness or cold, or whatever
you may call it, has entirely left me, and
there is nothing the matter now excepting, I am
almost wearied out - I have been working most
prodigious, aye thundering hard - I have been
fitting out a Ship on her second cruise; she
was very successful on her first voyage, in so much
so that I shall send her on a longer one this season,
and have her better "manned"; the name of
this good Ship is the "Lecture Association" - to-
morrow evening, a thousand strong will be aboard
if not more, every man will be in his place and
every gun shot - A little long low black piratical
looking craft (private craft) ^{the Hyacinth} has challenged us to
mortal combat - She cannot muster but about
five hundred, though her merits have been
proclaimed from the Pulpit, while we have been
denied as Infidels - I cannot tell what will be
their fate. They vainly thought that by recusing
their vote that we would give up our Lecture;
They neither published the vote, nor gave me
any formal notice of it, neither had they the
manliness or courtesy to invite any of our Lecturers,
I suspected this would be the case, and made

calculations accordingly - They did not find out that we were going to have another course of Lectures till two days before I advertised - They were very much surprised, and "all taken a back" to use a sailors phrase - They said we were obstinate, and tried to persuade me to give up, I told them it was just as fair for us to ask them to give up - When they found we would not give up, they called a special meeting, and notwithstanding there was not a quorum, they voted informally to reduce their tickets to fifty cents same as ours, and then get their proceedings sanctioned at the regular meeting last Tuesday, but the evening came & the subject was not brought up, neither do I think it will be - They are the obstinate ones, for they have tried to injure us in every way, but it was no go; we sold about 600 tickets first night & shall probably sell a 1000 by tomorrow, having sold already about 200 since last lecture - The orthodox call us Infidels & hypocrites and Dr Babcock is going to have a singing school in his vestry on Monday Evening the night of our Lectures, and says he and his daughters will attend - bah! Mr Prentiss has preached against us in his weekly meetings, but Dr Mayhew told him it was far worse for him Prentiss, a professor of Religion & a Minister to lecture before the Lyceum last winter, when he knew his brother man was excluded - We had the very first people in town and shall have them, let them try even so hard to injure us - On the ^{day} ~~the~~

I advertised our Lectures, there was a Director to be chosen
for the Bedford Commercial Bank, and I was one of
the candidates - But some whom I thought were
my friends did not vote for me and I lost my
election - this did not trouble me, but I thought
I would be up to them - I held the office of Secy
of the Port Society, one of the most important ones, &
gave universal satisfaction - I kept quiet since
said nothing, but at the annual meeting last
Thursday I declined a reelection - then the
very ones who did not vote for me for Director
came & tried to persuade me to continue in office
it was no use, & I left them to their disappointment
- Others may take care of the Port Society - I
shall concentrate my little strength in behalf
of the cause of Humanity, cheerfully & willingly
Rev Mr Thiss has preached two Sundays for us
and will preach the next two Sundays - he is
a very fine fellow - he stays with me - he preached
a Real Hot Abolition Sermon last Sunday morning
which gave universal satisfaction - Mr Robeson
says he shall certainly go to Church when he preaches
he has been every time yet so has Deacon Emerson -
I think he has more talent ^{than any} Furness - Please Keep it se-
cret, I think there is not much doubt but that they
will settle him - don't tell this - The Conservatives are all
for him & we Abolitionists keep still as we do not wish
to put any hindrances in the way - Don't laugh, when I tell you
I am going to the Unitarian Convention in Salem on Tuesday - I
may return by Weymouth & will explain myself to you - Yrs truly J. L. Ricketts

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